#### Case 2:17-cv-02648-PD Document 1 Filed 06/08/17 Page 1 of 12

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

Par Parage	Total Microso			/					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Joseph Flanagan				DEFENDANTS City of Philadelphia; P/O Thomas Liciardello; P/O Sean O'Malley; P/O Michael Spicer; P/O Perry Betts; P/O Brian Reynolds; Lt. Thomas					
				Wixted; P/O Stacey Brown					
(b) County of Residence of	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	hiladelphia County		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)					
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) James, Schwartz and Associates				Attorneys (If Known)					
1500 Walnut Street, 21st Philadelphia, PA 19102									
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P. (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIP	AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)		
☐ 1 U.S. Government	■ 3 Federal Question			P	F DEF		PTF DEF		
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government)	(U.S. Government Not a Party)		en of This State	1 0	Incorporated or Pr of Business In T			
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☐ 120 Marine	☐ 310 Airplane	☐ 365 Personal Injury -	1   02	of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 423 Wi		☐ 400 State Reapportionment		
☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 315 Airplane Product	Product Liability	□ 69	0 Other	28	USC 157	☐ 410 Antitrust		
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability  320 Assault, Libel &	☐ 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical	- 1		PROP	ERTY RIGHTS	☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce		
& Enforcement of Judgment		Personal Injury	- 1		☐ 820 Co	pyrights	☐ 460 Deportation		
☐ 151 Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers'	Product Liability			□ 830 Pat		☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and		
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability  340 Marine	368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product			☐ 840 Tra	idemark	Corrupt Organizations  480 Consumer Credit		
(Excludes Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product	Liability		LABOR		L SECURITY	☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV		
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	PERSONAL PROPER	TY 🗇 71	0 Fair Labor Standards	☐ 861 HL		☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/		
of Veteran's Benefits  160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	☐ 370 Other Fraud☐ 371 Truth in Lending	n 72	Act O Labor/Management		uck Lung (923) WC/DIWW (405(g))	Exchange  890 Other Statutory Actions		
☐ 190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal		Relations	☐ 864 SS	ID Title XVI	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts		
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal	Property Damage		0 Railway Labor Act	□ 865 RS	I (405(g))	■ 893 Environmental Matters ■ 895 Freedom of Information		
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<ul><li>240 Torts to Land</li><li>245 Tort Product Liability</li></ul>	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence  530 General			26	USC 7609	State Statutes		
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	☐ 448 Education	555 Prison Condition	1	Actions					
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	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 42 U.S.C. §§ 198	itute under which you ar 3 and 1988	re filing (1	Do not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unless	diversity)			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of ca		ahts				<del>-</del>		
VII. REQUESTED IN		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$		CHECK YES only	if demanded in complaint:		
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2			750,000.00		JURY DEMAND:	Yes 🗆 No		
VIII. RELATED CASE	E(S) (See instructions):	HIDGE			Dogu	ET MUMPER			
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### Case 2:17-cv-02648-PD Document 1 Filed 06/08/17 Page 2 of 12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Plaintiff: 2228 Sepviva Street, Philadelphia, PA 19125 Address of Defendant: 1501 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 2150 East Dauphin Street, Philadelphia, PA (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes NoX Yes□ No 😡 Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: 12-5690 Judge Paul S. Diamond Date Terminated: N/A Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes□ No⊠ 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated Yes No action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously Yes No terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? Yes No CIVIL: (Place / in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. 

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. 

FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. 

Jones Act-Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4. 

Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Divil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability — Asbestos Securities Act(s) Cases 9. All other Diversity Cases 10. 

Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check appropriate Category) Michael C. Schwartz counsel of record do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought. DATE: 6/7/2017 NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. **DATE:** 6/7/17 Attorney I.D.# CIV. 609 (6/08)

APPENDIX I

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Joseph Fl	ianagan	: :	CIVIL ACTION				
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(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits (							
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.							
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvin exposure to asbestos.	g claims for perso	mal injury or p	property damage from	( )			
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(f) Standard Management – C	ases that do not fa	ıll into any on	e of the other tracks.	( )			
(e 7 2017 Date	Morney-at-la	aw	Plaintith Attorney for				
(215) 751-9805 Telephone	(215) 751. FAX Number		mschwartz Ocivilrigh E-Mail Address	dspa.co			

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOSEPH FLANAGAN 2228 SEPVIVA STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19125

PLAINTIFF: : CIVIL ACTION NO:

V.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA : JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

P/O THOMAS LICIARDELLO, No. 4383 : P/O SEAN O'MALLEY, No. 6991 :

P/O MICHAEL SPICER, No. 5180

P/O PERRY BETTS, No. 6761 P/O BRIAN REYNOLDS, No. 4268

LT. THOMAS WIXTED, No. 243

P/O STACEY BROWN, No. 9432

1515 ARCH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

**DEFENDANTS** 

#### COMPLAINT

1. This is an action for money damages brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988. and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and under the common law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, against City of Philadelphia Police Officers in their individual capacities and against the City of Philadelphia. Jurisdiction is based upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343, and the aforementioned statutory provision. Plaintiff further invokes the pendent jurisdiction of this Court, provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1367, to entertain claims arising under state law.

#### **PARTIES**

- 2. Plaintiff JOSEPH FLANAGAN, at all times relevant to this Complaint, is and was a resident of the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 3. Defendant CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, at all times pertinent to this Complaint, is a municipality of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and owns, operates, manages, directs and controls the Philadelphia Police Department, which employees the below-named police officers.
- 4. Defendants P/O THOMAS LICIARDELLO, P/O SEAN O'MALLEY, P/O MICHAEL SPICER, P/O PERRY BETTS, P/O BRIAN REYNOLDS, LT. THOMAS WIXTED, P/O STACEY BROWN, at all times pertinent to this complaint, are and were employed by the Philadelphia Police Department, acting under color of state law, pursuant to either official policy, custom or practice of the City of Philadelphia and/or its Police Department.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 5. At the time of the incident that is the subject of this Complaint, Plaintiff Joseph Flanagan was a forty-eight year-old male.
- 6. On July 21, 2009, Plaintiff was arrested at his home, following the execution of a search warrant by Defendants Liciardello, O'Malley, Spicer, Betts, Reynolds, Wixted, and Brown.
- 7. In the affidavit of probable cause, Defendant Liciardello alleged that a confidential informant provided him information that a person, later identified as Theodore Carobine, was supplying Plaintiff Flanagan with methamphetamine to sell.

- 8. In the affidavit of probable cause, Defendant Liciardello alleged further that the confidential informant attempted to make a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from Plaintiff Flanagan, who told him that he did not have the drugs, but that "Ted has not been down yet but will be down after 8:00 PM with the 'shit."
- 9. In the affidavit of probable cause, Defendant Liciardello alleged that Defendants Spicer and Betts observed Plaintiff meet Carobine and hand him a large amount of U.S. currency.
- 10. Plaintiff did not meet Theodore Carobine and give him a large amount of U.S. currency, and therefore, the affidavit of probable cause contained a material falsehood.
- 11. In the affidavit of probable cause, Defendant Liciardello alleged that back-up police officers, including Defendants Reynolds and Spicer, observed Carobine drive to 2963 Frankford Ave, make a telephone call and then meet a male later identified as John Goodwin, who opened a security gate and allowed Carobine to enter the property.
- 12. The affidavit alleged further alleged that, five minutes later, Carobine emerged with a brown paper bag, and drove back to where he had met with Plaintiff, and then handed Plaintiff the brown paper bag.
- 13. In the affidavit of probable cause, Defendant Liciardello alleged further that the confidential informant made a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from Plaintiff.
- 14. Plaintiff did not meet Theodore Carobine in the manner described, did not possess the brown paper bag and did not engage in any of the activity as described in the affidavit of probable cause. Therefore, the affidavit of probable cause contained material falsehoods.
- 15. Defendants claimed that they recovered five (5) clear Ziploc bags containing approximately 23 grams of methamphetamine from a bedroom in the house.

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- 16. Plaintiff denies that these drugs were ever in his home or in his possession, and therefore, they were either planted or their recovery was fabricated by Defendants.
- 17. As a result of the planted or fabricated recovery of drugs, Plaintiff was arrested and falsely accused of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.
- 18. Following the execution of the search warrant at Carobine's residence, Defendants claimed that that they recovered a clear Ziploc bag containing approximately 100 grams of methamphetamine from a bedroom in the house.
- 19. Carobine denies that these drugs were ever in his home or in his possession, and therefore, they were either planted or their recovery was fabricated by Defendants.
- 20. As a result of the planted or fabricated recovery of drugs, Carobine was arrested and falsely accused of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.
- 21. Following his arrest, Plaintiff Flanagan had high bail set due to the nature of the charges, and he remained in jail until October 18, 2012 when Plaintiff entered a negotiated guilty plea and was sentenced to time served to 23 months, paroled immediately, followed by 8 years probation. Plaintiff served an additional 17 months for a violation of parole, which also resulted in a loss of street time.
- 22. On December 3, 2012, the Philadelphia District Attorney R. Seth Williams sent a letter to Philadelphia Police Commissioner Ramsey indicating that the District Attorney's Office would no longer use certain Philadelphia narcotics officers, including Thomas Liciardello, Michael Spicer, and Perry Betts, as witnesses, or accept charges or approve search warrants in cases in which these officers were involved.

- 23. Based upon this after-discovered evidence, Plaintiff filed a motion under the Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA), seeking to have his judgment of sentence and guilty plea vacated.
- 24. On June 19, 2015, the PCRA motion was granted and a new trial was ordered.
- 25. On that same date, the Commonwealth's motion for a *nolle prosse* was granted.
- 26. Philadelphia Police Officers, including the above-named NFU officers, caused the initiation of criminal charges against Plaintiff, without probable cause, and with malice, and thereby subjected him to malicious prosecution in violation of his constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 27. Philadelphia Police Officers, including some or all of the above-named NFU officers, deliberately fabricated evidence, suppressed and/or destroyed exculpatory evidence thereby violating Plaintiff's rights to due process of law under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

# COUNT I FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION: 42 U.S.C. § 1983 PLAINTIFF JOSEPH FLANAGAN V. DEFENDANTS LICIARDELLO, O'MALLEY, SPICER, BETTS, REYNOLDS, WIXTED, AND BROWN

- 28. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, as set forth above.
- 29. As a direct and proximate cause of the actions of Defendants, individually and jointly, Plaintiff suffered the following injury and damages:
  - a. Violation of his constitutional rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to be free in his person from unreasonable searches and seizures and violations of his right to due process of law;
  - b. Loss of his physical liberty;

- c. Loss of property;
- d. Physical pain and suffering and emotional trauma and suffering, some or all of which may be permanent.
- 30. Plaintiff claims damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, for the injuries set forth above against Defendants Liciardello, O'Malley, Spicer, Betts, Reynolds, Wixted, and Brown for their violation of the clearly established and well-settled federal constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

# COUNT II FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION: 42 U.S.C. § 1983 PLAINTIFF JOSEPH FLANAGAN V. DEFENDANT CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

- 31. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, as set forth above.
- 32. Defendant City of Philadelphia, as a matter of policy or practice, has, with deliberate indifference to the rights of its citizens, including Plaintiff, failed to:
  - a. adequately hire, discipline, train, supervise and/or otherwise direct its employees, including Defendants in this case, concerning the rights of citizens;
  - b. establish a system which properly identifies, reports and/or investigates instances of improper conduct by its employees, including Defendants in this case; and
  - c. adequately sanction and/or discipline its employees, including Defendants in this case, for violations of the rights of citizens;

hereby causing Defendants, in this case, to engage in the unlawful conduct described herein.

- 1. As a direct and proximate cause of the actions of Defendant City of Philadelphia, Plaintiff suffered the following injury and damages:
  - a. Violation of his constitutional rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
  - b. Loss of physical liberty;
  - c. Search and seizure of private property;

- d. Suffer physical pain, and emotional distress, public humiliation, damage to reputation, depression and anxiety.
- e. Economic losses, including but not limited to lost income and benefits, loss of future income and impairment of earning capacity, and loss of employment opportunities.
- 33. Plaintiff claims damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, for the injuries set forth above against Defendants for their violation of the clearly established and well-settled federal constitutional rights of Plaintiff.

# COUNT III STATE CLAIM: MALICIOUS PROSECUTION PLAINTIFF JOSEPH FLANAGAN V. DEFENDANTS LICIARDELLO, O'MALLEY, SPICER, BETTS, REYNOLDS, WIXTED, AND BROWN

- 34. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth herein at length.
- 35. By the conduct set forth above, Defendants Liciardello, O'Malley, Spicer, Betts, Reynolds, Wixted, and Brown, individually and jointly, intentionally, recklessly, and maliciously caused a criminal prosecution to be initiated against Plaintiff.
- 36. Plaintiff was arrested and imprisoned and had to endure the prospect of going to trial in order to prove his innocence. Defendants acted with malice and furthered the prosecution of Plaintiff by providing false information, and/or withheld truthful information, all of which if known would have resulted in no prosecution of Plaintiff.
- 37. The criminal charges against Plaintiff were terminated in his favor following the dismissal of all charges.
- 38. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned conduct, Plaintiff suffered physical injury and pain, and continues to suffer emotional distress, humiliation, mental pain and anguish and such other and further losses as are established at trial.

## COUNT IV DAMAGES

- 39. Plaintiff hereby incorporates the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as set forth above.
- 40. Plaintiff suffered losses including, but not limited to monetary and property loss, and attorney's fees.
- 41. The conduct of the individual Defendants was outrageous, in that it was malicious, wanton, willful, or oppressive, or showed reckless indifference to the interests of Plaintiff, and therefore, warrants the imposition of punitive damages.

#### RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Joseph Flanagan requests the following relief:

- a. Compensatory damages;
- b. Punitive damages against Defendant police officers only;
- c. Such equitable and legal relief as is proper and just.
- d. Attorney fees for Counts I and II;
- e. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on issues triable to a jury.

Respectfully submitted,

James, Schwartz & Associates, P.C.

By: /S/ Jonathan James JJJ6405

JONATHAN J. JAMES, ESQUIRE
Attorney I.D. #64534

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/S/ Michael Schwartz MCS6449
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Attorney I.D. #39475
mschwartz@civilrightspa.com

1500 Walnut Street – 21<sup>st</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 751–9865

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

Date: <u>June 7, 2017</u>